

Special Education State Advisory Committee General Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2015

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Johns Hopkins University, Center for Technology in Education

Attendees: Kelly Meissner, Rachel London, Leanne Carmona, Kathy Barazotto, Martha Goodman, Neal Lichter, Nancy Feeley (for Carmen Brown)

By phone: Carol Strootman, Dorie Flynn, April Edwards

I. Welcome/Introductions

Kelly Meissner

Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve and seconded. Minutes approved

II. Web Updates

Kelly Meissner

Information will be updated; location of information is still to be determined.

A discussion ensued about what information to include on the website. Suggestions included membership, agendas, minutes, and posting meeting materials so SESAC members participating by phone would have access to the documents. Once the site is up and running, possibly posts items of interest for local SECACs to share with their members and encourage local SECACs to post their agendas, meeting minutes and items of interest.

III. Parent Survey

Nancy Feeley

2014-2015 Parent Survey Response Rates for the Pilot and Spring Administration were shared. The Pilot Response Rate is not what DSE/EIS had hoped. The Spring Administration did show an increase. The State response rate for the preschool and school age combined, Pilot and Spring Administration combined is 10.4% which is an increase of .4%. Leanne Carmona shared what Anne Arundel County did to greatly improve their response rate. Initially DSE/EIS was contemplating distributing the Survey at IEP team meetings for the 2015-16 school year. However, after meeting with a variety of stakeholders, it was suggested that DSE/EIS explore different marketing strategies and lengthen the survey window instead of distributing the Survey prior to IEP team meetings. Therefore, for the 2015-16 Survey, the survey window will begin February 1, 2016-April 30, 2016. New marketing materials/resources will be developed this fall. Hopefully disseminating the survey earlier in the year with a longer survey window and utilizing new marketing strategies will show an increase in the response rate. It was noted that 5 of the parents attending the meeting stated they did not receive their surveys.

Suggestions included:

- Posting the Survey on MSDE home page website so online version is easily accessible
- Involving SESAC and local SECAC to ensure all parents are informed
- Targeting IEP Chairs and Parent Resource Centers via webinars and post cards

IV. CoP Summary

Nancy Feeley

The mission and goals of the Education Behavioral Health Community of Practice (CoP) were distributed. The CoP developed a list of free online resources for school-based and early childhood staff to support student mental health was shared. SESAC members were interested in learning more about Maryland Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (MD-AWARE), a 5 year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) agreement to increase identification of mental health concerns and early referral for school age youth; and the report examining the state of Community –Partnered School Based Health (CP-SBH) at a future meeting. It was suggested that the CoP have an early childhood parent representative.

V. Strategic Discussion for 2015 -16

All

2015-16 Meeting Schedule-The schedule was reviewed, October 12, 2015 meeting needs to be rescheduled, it is Columbus Day and State agencies are closed. There was a discussion about meeting monthly and the time commitment involved. It was decided that the meetings will be held monthly acknowledging that there will be potential conflicts for some members throughout the year. Members asked that all agendas, handouts, minutes with a call-in number be posted five days prior to the meeting (Google Docs, Drop Box, Maryland Learning Links).

At the Executive Meeting it was suggested that SESAC establish priorities for the 2015-2016 school year. The following recommendations were made:

- Establish a subcommittee on Transition. MSDE has a Transition Steering Committee so it is important that SESAC communicate with the chair to assure no duplication of effort. Parent's Place received a grant around transition.
- Establish an Assistive Technology Subcommittee. MSDE has an Assistive Technology Steering Committee so it is important that SESAC communicate with the chair to assure no duplication of effort.
- Collaborate with the State Interagency Coordinating Council and the Early Childhood Advisory Council to keep abreast of initiatives in Part C, Birth-5.
- Improve communication and support with/of local SECACS

VI. Open Discussion

Martha Goodman stated that there issue in Baltimore City regarding timelines for destroying student confidential records (what type of records) and when or how parents are notified. There is a SECAC meeting on September 14, 2015 and this will be an agenda item. Martha will keep us updated. Rachel London gave updates about the Developmental Disabilities Council's Before and After School Care Videos that are almost completed and will be released this fall. Parents of children with disabilities have great difficulty finding and keeping child care. Rachel also spoke about the Towson State University Consortium to support IHE programs in addressing/exploring program options for students with developmental disabilities on college campuses across the State.